A mother gives her children
Stepping stones to the stars.
Her love is unconditional;
Her heart has no bars.
A mother teaches her children
To be confident and bold.
Her special love for her children,
More valuable than silver or gold.
A mother picks up her children
And wipes away life’s tears.
She scares away monsters in the night
And silences life’s fears.
A mother celebrates
Her children’s accomplishments in life.
She hurts and cries with them
When life brings times of strife.
A mother shares her love freely
With her tender loving way.
She grows more beautiful
To her children with each passing day.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!
Message from our Supreme President
Michael J. Horvath

Nearly every day I open the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page to see what is happening and today there were two posts by two of our Supreme Officers. The first was from our Supreme Physical Fitness Director, Katie Swift, doing a Facebook live update on the Sokol Family Fest that the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is organizing for the Sokol membership July 15-18, 2021 at SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, PA.

The second was from our Supreme Physical Fitness Board member, Dusan Dorich, showing photos of the April snow fall that covered his back yard.

This is the modern way of communicating so we have to embrace it no matter how overwhelming it becomes sometimes. Katie’s post is showing what the Physical Fitness Board is doing to create an activity for any member to attend and enjoy a fraternal weekend together. Dusan’s post is to stay connected with the Sokol members and show the unusual changes that happen in nature. The Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page is the communication outlet we should use to connect with the Sokol membership. If you are not signed up to receive Sokol posts take a moment to sign up and become connected and informed.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board held a meeting via Zoom on Saturday, April 17, 2021 to continue the organizing of the Sokol Family Fest in July. The Board is working out the details to ensure all who attend have a wonderful time and enjoy a great fraternal weekend.

I am reminded the day to celebrate our Big Blue Marble, Earth Day, was on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Earth Day is the day to understand the importance of doing our part to help preserve and keep our planet in good health. Doing all we can to keep it in good shape by keeping its air clean, water pure, vegetation green, wildlife healthy, waste reduced and many other issues under control so our planet will continue to be a safe home for us and future generations.

I participated in the Slovak Catholic Federation’s 2021 Spring meeting held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 via Zoom. The Slovak Catholic Federation conducts their Annual Appeal to raise funds to support the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome. I encourage our Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths and members to give a yearly donation to the SCF so they can continue to help support the Slovak College in Rome. Also, take time to look at the Federation’s Facebook page, which is maintained and updated by Sister Barbra Sable, SSCM. There is a lot of Slovak related information on the Facebook page and web site to help anyone with their research.

This year Join Hands Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 3, 2021. This is a day of volunteering and is intended to bring to everyone’s awareness to the benefits of aiding each other. It is a day fraternals can show what fraternalism is by taking up a project that can help others in need. If any Group, Assembly, or Wreath does a Join Hands Day project send in pictures and a little article so we can publish the good work you did for your community.

Happy Mother’s Day to every member who is blessed to be called Mother; from Great Grand Mothers (Skvelá baba), Grand Mother (Babo), Mother (Matka), God Mother (Bože Matka) or any other title given to a special woman. May your Mother’s Day be filled with happiness and love and you enjoy your day, since your endless love and caring cannot be truly measured but know it is appreciated by all who benefit from it. On this Mother’s Day we also remember all of our Mothers who are with our Lord in Heaven, we thank you and ask that you will always be at our side to give us the strength and help to live our Christian lives. May God continue to bless all of you and keep you close to the Blessed Mother for support and guidance.

Let us not forget the national holiday, Memorial Day, created to honor and remember those who have died performing their duties while serving in the United States Armed Services. They served and died so we can live in the United States and their sacrifice helped other countries shed the chains of their oppressors. May we never forget what they did for many and the loss felt by their families. May all their souls Rest In Peace.

Memorial Day is also the day we remember our beloved family and friends who have died, especially those this past year who succumbed to the Covid-19 virus.

(Continued on page 9)
As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you. – Isaiah 66:13

Greetings from the Home Office! I am sure that most of us would agree that May is one of the most beautiful months of the year. The weather is finally turning the corner and the beautiful colors are finally sprouting up. I know that it is sometimes hard given the current times we are living in, but I urge all our members to get outside and enjoy the spring and all that it has to offer.

Here at the Home Office, we are still in the middle of our Business Continuity Plan as it pertains to the pandemic. We have seen an uptick of cases in Northern New Jersey, even though the vaccination numbers are going up. The good news is our staff has done a tremendous job during these unorthodox times. They have dealt with closures, testing, and many more challenges along the way. As I have said before, I am so proud of our Home Office Staff and our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, for their hard work and determination throughout this difficult time. We are all hoping that at some point this year, we will be able to get back to “normal”.

The month of May not only has the start of beautiful weather, but it is also a wonderful month because we get to celebrate some wonderful individuals. I am, of course, talking about all our Sokol Mothers! On Sunday, May 9th, we get an opportunity to make these heroes feel special. Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother’s Day in the United States. She developed the inspiration of celebrating Mother’s Day from her own mother, Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis, in her childhood. As an activist and social worker, the elder Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that we should honor all mothers and pay tribute to the contributions made by them. Following her mother’s death, Anna wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother’s Day. The hard work paid off and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day. I would like to wish all our Sokol Mothers out there a Happy Mother’s Day! And I would especially like to wish my Mother, Annie, and my wife, Maggie, a Happy Mother’s Day! Thank you for all you do! I remind everyone, once again, that celebrating our beautiful Mothers should not only be a one-day event, but an everyday occurrence.

This month also brings about various celebrations such as First Holy Communions, Confirmations, and Graduations. I know that these celebrations may be a little different this year as we are navigating through this pandemic, but what better gift to give to your child or grandchild than a Slovak Catholic Sokol Life Insurance Policy. And with our DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN currently going on, there is no better time than now. You can not only offer this amazing benefit to your loved ones, but also help your Group offset various costs that directly help your child or grandchild. If you have any questions regarding the DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN or our array of life and annuity products, please contact our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. at (412) 381-5431 or give me a call at the Home Office at (800) 886-7656, and we would be glad to assist you.

Until next time, have a wonderful month and once again, Happy Mother’s Day to all our Sokol Moms!

Stay Safe, Stay Strong, and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

GROUP 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Group 7 held an Easter flower fundraiser. Members gathered at the North End Slovak Citizens Club to sort and distribute a variety of spring flowers including lilies, hyacinths, chrysanthemums, and tulips.

“Where flowers bloom so does hope” - Lady Bird Johnson.

GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 9 a.m. at the North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Mass will be live streamed for St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. Fr. Richard Cirba, Group 7 Chaplain, will celebrate the Mass for living and deceased members of Group 7. All COVID 19 protocols will be followed for the safety of all members attending the meeting. All Group 7 Officers, Assembly/Wreath Officers and members are encouraged to attend. Zdar Boh!

-- Pamela Lipski, Group 7 Reporter

CANCELLATION OF THE 2021 S.C.S. BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 2021 Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament scheduled for the weekend of May 14th and 15th in Cleveland, Ohio has been cancelled for the health and safety of our members due to the recent resurgence of Covid-19 Pandemic, continued social restrictions at the hotels, bowling lanes and limited availability of vaccines. Please stay safe. – James Matlon, Director of Sports and Athletics

JOIN THE WALKING PROGRAM TODAY!

For more information contact Martin Degnan at mcoach1986@aol.com

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of JUNE 1, 2021. DEADLINE for all photos and information for this issue will be MAY 22, 2021.
WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her. May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of flowers, or blossoms. They celebrated ludi florales, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or “Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary,” came into being. Also called, “Lady Month,” the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn’t always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary’s Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today. The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It’s common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary’s month. Additionally, it’s a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary’s beauty and virtue. It’s also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother’s virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crowning’s aren’t just “church” things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven’t already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it’s a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need (Continued on page 21)
REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2020 PRESENTED AT THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD MARCH 18-10, 2021 – ZOOM CALL

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

This report is submitted for the purpose of advising of the activities of the Office of the General Counsel during the year 2020. I have endeavored to fulfill all the duties and obligations of my office to the best of my ability for the good and welfare of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

This past year was exceedingly trying in so many ways. Everyone focused on the COVID curve, vaccine approval and government assistance for direction.

While 2020 has challenged us in ways we never expected, we have been fortunate during this tumultuous time to have a talented group of Supreme Officers who have guided our organization. Our fraternal continues to survive and endure because our officers have administered the affairs of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in the highest standards of excellence. As we enter 2021, let us hope that the deadly and crippling virus, through medical advancements, becomes a non-issue and we can get back to normalcy.

The by-laws of our organization required that I obtain and study new state and federal legislation pertaining to fraternal organizations. My office continues to monitor all local and federal legislation which may affect the operation of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, directly or indirectly. Particular emphasis is placed upon the review of tax legislation which may attempt to eliminate the tax-exempt status of our organization. To my knowledge, there is no adverse legislation pending which will negatively impact our organization.

In matters concerning contract negotiations, our organization is in the process of collaborating with one of its tenants to sell a piece of real estate on the home office site which formerly served as our print shop decades ago.

Contractual documents have been exchanged between the parties and the buyer has retained the services of an architect and engineer to formalize the site plan and subdivision plot. The City of Passaic Zoning Board of Adjustment would have to render approval of the transaction since garden variety use variance relief is required as a condition of the sale. As a consequence of the delays caused by the global pandemic, further negotiations are pending.

In connection with our lending portfolio, no new mortgage loans were issued in 2020. Over the past decade, the Board of Directors had granted three mortgage loans to qualified members. During this past year, one borrower elected to pay off the mortgage in full ahead of schedule. Consequently, I drafted the requisite discharge of mortgage for filing and recording with the Passaic County Clerk’s Office. In addition, at the Supreme President’s direction, I prepared a detailed memorandum concerning the policies and procedures governing the Sokol mortgage program to eligible candidates. Further, I continue to verify that property taxes and insurance are being paid by each borrower. Our mortgage portfolio now consists of two (2) loans.

In matters concerning litigation there is one lawsuit pending in the State of Ohio. By way of background, a generous benefactor passed away leaving a Last Will and Testament with specific bequests to various fraternal benefit societies, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The will was admitted to probate and later challenged by another heir in Loraine County Probate Court. The case was forwarded to mediation in an attempt to settle all claims. It is anticipated that the matter will be concluded in the near future.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have attended all virtual meetings and teleconference calls initiated by our Supreme President in order to carry out and administer the business of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The minutes of each of our Board of Directors’ meetings are published in our Sokol Catholic Falcon and my participation is well documented.

During this past year, I have also attended the virtual sessions of the annual meetings of the American Fraternal Alliance and the Association of Fraternal Benefit Counsel.

I continue to serve as President of Group 1 as well as Assembly 162 in Clifton, New Jersey. I have submitted articles and reports to the Slovak Catholic Falcon for publication to keep our membership advised of ongoing activities within the Fraternal Benefit System.

Although 2020 was a complex year filled with unexpected turns, our organization continues to prosper and grow, thanks to the cooperation received from all Supreme Officers. My special thanks to all of you for the pleasure of having the opportunity to work with you for the good of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

In closing, I urge all of you as concerned leaders to make important contributions to the spirit of progress and good will that are the hallmarks of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. With God’s blessing, I am encouraged and confident that our organization will continue to accomplish its goals and objectives.

ZDAR BOH!
Respectfully submitted,
John D. Pogorelec, Jr.
General Counsel

REPORT OF THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

As the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, and in compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2020 Annual Activity Report.

The first event of the year was the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of January 17th through the 19th. Before the annual meeting I met with Basil Wahal from the GCU to discuss the 2020 International Bowling Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio and International Golf Tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course in August.

I participated in March 20th and 21st Zoom calls for the Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting. During the meeting all of the Physical Fitness Board recommendations were approved for the 2020 fraternal activities and sporting events. The Board of Directors voted to cancel the 74th International Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 15th and 16th at Brookgate Lanes in Cleveland, Ohio due to the growing COVID-19 Pandemic.

During the month of March, I was able to finalize the golfing, lodging and banquet facilities for the 2021 Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake, in DuBois, Pennsylvania. On March 31st, Kutztown University cancelled all events for the summer of 2020, including our Clinic that was scheduled in July.

On April 19th, I participated in the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Zoom call as we initialized plans for our first virtual Clinic. (Continued on page 6)
The Board of Directors held their 3rd Quarter 2020 Meeting via Zoom conference call on Wednesday, June 24th. During the meeting, the Board of Directors made the decision to cancel the 2020 International Golf Tournament due to the increase in the number of people contracting COVID-19 and for the health and safety of our members.

The first virtual Clinic Zoom call for all of the Group Leaders was held on Saturday June 13th, to discuss the rules and regulations and the addition of the over 30 age group for the 50th International Slet. The second Clinic Zoom call was held on Saturday July 18th with a separate breakout session to go over the new drills for the 50th International Slet.

Since the International Golf Tournament was cancelled, the Fitness Board decided that we would have an International Golf Week, August 10th-16th, 2020. Our members would continue to practice social distancing at local golf courses, miniature golf, driving ranges or just pose with a club in hand and post pictures on Face Book. We had over 100 members send in pictures from different venues all over the USA and Canada, and 22 pictures were posted in the September issue of our Falcon.

The Board of Directors held their 3rd Quarter 2020 Meeting via Zoom conference call on Thursday, September 17th. The Board of Directors held their 4th Quarter Meeting via Zoom conference call on Friday, December 11th. At the December meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to postpone the 50th International Slet until July 2022 at Kutztown University due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Physical Fitness Board would look into promoting a Family Camp in July 2021. I participated in both meetings and we must continue to explore unique ways to communicate with our members at a local level during the Pandemic. The increased participation at the local level will help to increase the number of participants at our International Sporting events, including the 50th International Slet in 2022.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for their help and participation in the multiple Zoom calls in 2020. I am looking forward to the Sokol Family Fest at the SNPJ Recreation Center in July 2021 and the 66th International Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake in August 2021. I am optimistic that over 75% of our members will get vaccinated in the coming months and we can again have in person fraternal and social activities. Please keep in your prayers all of our members, families and friends that have had life changing events in their lives due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Zdar Boh!

James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

The following activity report for 2020 is submitted to the Board of Directors.

The following is a list of activities and events I have attended and worked during 2020.

In January, I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held January 17-18 at the Homewood Suites in Pittsburgh PA. At the meeting the board discussed the upcoming sporting events, including ideas for more social events like, camps and golf outings in Myrtle Beach. We also discussed the success of the previous Slet. We talked about things we could improve on and things that worked really well, like the accurtrac timing and automatic and immediate posting of results to a designated website.

In March Jim Matlon and I discussed the Bowling tournament, which eventually we cancelled for safety of the members.

In July I attended the virtual Clinic. It had a good turnout and the directors and directresses had good ideas moving forward. During July, Jim and I thought it was also in the best interest of the golf participants to cancel the International Golf Outing due to the outbreak of Covid. We did push heavy to promote the golf weekend which included taking and posting pictures of the foursome your Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society were golfing with. Personally we had a great turnout at Springhills golf course in Clinton, Ohio.

In August I posted to facebook a pump up Video I made to keep the excitement for future golf outings.

In November, Julie, Nancy and myself went to the Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota (translates to Slovene National Benefit Society) or now more commonly known as the SNPJ Recreation Center located in Kirkland Ohio, on November 13th where we met their directors to discuss a summer camp in the event the Slet would be cancelled. The camp will be replacing the Slet this year.

It has so much to do there and would be a great outing. They have a large outdoor swimming pool, fishing lake, horseshoes, baseball fields, soccer fields, camp sites, pavilions, close by golf and a lot of other fun things to do.

In concluding, this was a very trying year for most everyone, but I am sure we will pull through stronger and more appreciative of what we had and will have many better days ahead!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Frank P. Laury III
Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual activity report for 2020.

2020 Yearly Activity Report

January - March

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Final preparations for the 2020 calendar year events were discussed in length, with special attention to the International Clinic to be held at Kutztown University in July. The male board stayed an extra few days to review music and to start the choreography for the new drills to be presented at the Clinic. Prior to the annual Physical Fitness Board Meeting, I had coordinated with Katie Swift, James Matlon and Honey Svoboda from Kutztown University the business items that would be covered through the course of our SPF Board meetings.

I attended the Board of Directors quarterly meeting via conference call, which was scheduled to be an in-person meeting. The onset of the COVID 19 pandemic started to affect every facet of our lives, which led the Board of Directors to hold preliminary discussions on how to handle our upcoming sporting and business meetings.
I submitted my article for submission to the Falcon publication.

April – June
I maintained contact with my assigned Group, Reading, PA to inform them of the sporting activities, Clinic, and any updates due to the pandemic. As well, I continued to stay in touch with Kutztown University to obtain updates on their COVID policies, and was informed that there would be no summer conferences held on campus.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board decided to hold a conference call, with the ultimate decision that we will hold a “virtual” Clinic via Zoom, instead of the in-person event scheduled in Kutztown.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

July – September
The SPFB held 2 separate Zoom calls with all of the Directors/Directresses and Sports Directors from 10 different Groups. The Board reviewed material that was generally covered during a traditional Clinic, and took lots of great feedback from the leaders of the various Groups. There were breakout sessions during both Zoom calls to brainstorm fraternal ideas and to start reviewing the 50th Slet drills.

I traveled to Wilkes Barre, PA to meet with the male SPFB to finish the drills and to video tape each one. All of the drills were completed and edited for distribution to each of the directors via the Google Drive.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

October – December
I maintained contact with Kutztown University and the SPFB to assess the 2021 viability of holding events. Our boards Zoom conferenced called twice to continue the dialogue and to discuss alternative “COVID friendly” events to be implemented in 2021.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

Throughout the year, there have been countless text messages, face time calls, emails, phone calls, Facebook posts and Zoom conferences to keep in contact with the SPFB, BOD and individual members. These are the little things that keep our organization unique in comparison to all of the other fraternals, and which makes our Sokol bond strong. We will always continue to promote the Slovak Catholic Sokol in the most reverent way, because this organization has done so much for all of its members!

In Sincere Fraternalism,
John M. Underation
Supreme Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In compliance with the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my Activity report for 2020.

January - March 2020
I met with the Cultural committee of Vychodna Slovak Dancers to start planning their trip to Slovakia for the semifinals competition in ZemSpieva. Plans were finalized. I travelled to Pittsburgh PA to attend meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. All the last year’s events were reviewed and suggestion to improve events were acted on. Plans for the upcoming International Clinic were finalized and we have planned an exciting schedule. All the sporting activities were finalized. This year assignments were given to the Physical Fitness Board. The whole board including new members had a lot of input during the meeting. We all work as one and the meeting was productive. After the meeting we worked on the drills for the upcoming International Clinic.

I travelled to Slovakia ahead of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers to make sure all arrangement for their arrival were ready. While in Slovakia Covid 19 came into Slovakia, ZemSpieva was cancelled and I rushed back home before Slovakia closed the boarders.

April - June 2020
Together with the male Physical Fitness Board held conference calls (re) men’s drills. I posted information on our Facebook page. With the Covid 19 Physical Fitness Board cancelled all our sporting events and the International Clinic for the safety of our Sokol members. We held conference calls as well as Zoom calls to plan new ways to communicate with our members. The board made a new schedule for the Zoom International Clinic. I kept in touch with my liaison groups about new plans for the year.

July - September 2020
I represented Physical Fitness Board at the annual meeting of Group 19 thru the conference call.

I updated Group 19 with all the changes and plans for the events. I took part in the virtual International Clinic by a Zoom. This was the first International Clinic since I have been involved that it was not an in-person event. This was the part I missed the most this year. Virtual Clinic went well, and overall a lot was accomplished. Thanks to all the Group’s leaders for taking part in it.

Fraternally yours,
Dusan Dorich
Supreme Assistant Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

My first year as the Supreme Physical Directress has had more challenges than a normal year. Being nominated is an honor and an excitement I was ready to take head on. I was not expecting a worldwide pandemic which would take all of our normal, traditional yearly events and toss them out. But I feel as though I smiled, made some changes, and with the help of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, we worked hard to still keep our organisational
January – May

I started the year by reaching out to all Group Presidents and Sports Directors for collection of Activity Reports and data. This information is valuable to see what can help the Groups in the future.

I was in contact with the newly elected Board Members: Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Kristen Popik and Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Janice Matlon. With great excitement, we made plans for our first Physical Fitness Board Meeting as well as Drill weekend to choreograph the new drills for the upcoming 50th International Slet.

The SPFB gathered in Pittsburgh, PA on the weekend of January 19-23 for the yearly meeting and drill weekend. I worked on making sure all the members have updated information and paperwork to be successful.

February 11, 2020 I attended the virtual workshop hosted by PNC: Tackling 2020 Leadership challenges and Board Governance.

As the world-wide pandemic started, the SPFB stayed in contact.

In the beginning of March, I completed the SWOT challenge form to be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

On March 31, 2020 I attended my first Board of Directors phone teleconference with all members of the Board of Directors.

In April, I worked with Supreme President and Supreme Secretary to purchase a membership in ZOOM to be used for future meetings.

Due to the continuation of the worldwide pandemic, April 5, 2020 the SPFB had a virtual meeting to discuss our summer programs. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, the SPFB decided to postpone the International Bowling Tournament as well as the International Clinic. Plans were being made for other events.

On April 26, 2020, I hosted a virtual Book club Meeting.

On March 31, 2020, and May 9, 2020 the SPFB had virtual meetings to discuss future plans and different possibilities for our organization.

June-September

Due to safety measures, COVID protocol and the concern of our members, the SPFB has decided to not hold an ‘in-person’ clinic. The SPFB members were faced with a challenge like none other. After several virtual meetings and emails, the SPFB held the International Clinic on two different days, June 14 and July 18. Both sessions last between 2-4 hours and a lot was discussed. Although disappointed by not being able to spend time together fraternally, the Group Directress’, Directors, and assistants were happy to connect.

On June, 23, 2020 the female members of the fitness board met to discuss changes to drills and a schedule.

On June 24, 2020, I attended the Board of Directors Board meeting. Because of COVID-19, the meeting was hosted via Zoom virtually.

On July 8, 2020, the female SPFB met with all the Directress and assistants to make clarifications and discuss the future of drills and the 50th Anniversary of the International Slet.

Due to COVID-19, the SPFB voted to reschedule the ‘official’ International Golf Tournament. The golf courses still honored the group rate price. Some of our members were still able to meet.

During that week, the SPFB hosted a virtual Golf Week and encouraged all members to post pictures on facebook.

During the month of August, the COVID-19 virus was not slowing down. Seeing this as a stressor and bringing people down, I worked together with the SPFB members to organize a number of events to be hosted via ZOOM. These events were in hopes to guide the organization and hold us together.

September-December

On September 18, 2020, I hosted the first virtual happy hour with Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky.

On September 17, 2020, I attended the virtual Board of Director meeting.

On October 2, I hosted a First Friday Happy Hour with Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky.

On October 17, 2020 I met with Supreme Director John Underation, Assistant Director Marty Degnan, and Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky to help plan what future events our organization may be able to host.

On October 18-24, 2020, the SFPB hosted a virtual International Bowling event where we encouraged people to post pictures, memories, and old pictures from Bowling Tournaments. In October, I was a member of the scholarship committee and met with fellow members of the committee from the Board of Directors to review applicants.

November 6, 2020, Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky and I hosted the virtual Friday Happy Hour.

December 5, 2020, the SPFB had a meeting to discuss plans for the 50th International Slet. With a heavy heart, we all agreed the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be the major concern, safety issues, regulation and the Canadian Border still not accessible for transit, we would need to postpone the 50th International Slet. Discussion of a retreat/ family weekend are in the plans. We feel as though the need for a fraternal event is wanted by all members.

December 11, 2020, I attended the Board of Director virtual meeting.

This year was exciting and had challenges to take on as the new Directress. The worldwide pandemic was a new challenge that no one has seen before. I took the challenge head on and hope I was able to provide a positive atmosphere with virtual events. I will continue to stress the importance of communication within our organization, planning fraternal events and hope to be able to see everyone in 2021.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.
Zdar Boh!
Katie Swift
Supreme Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2020. As the newly elected Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, the beginning of the year was filled with excitement and anticipation. The focus for the year was to prepare for the 2021 International Slet. March 2020 changed that focus and forced the Fitness Board to plan and think differently. A shift from organizing a large-scale event hoping to generate a wider age group of past, present, and future competitors, evolved into thinking of ways to remain connected through social media. Our motto “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body” has greater significance to me now more than ever.
In efforts to establish Supreme Physical Fitness Board support at local levels, efforts were made to contact officers of Group 9 and 17. In addition, all communiqués were relayed to Group 17 members to promote involvement. On an international level, I submitted comments and reminders of upcoming events to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page.

**January - March 2020** I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and served on the Sports Program Committee. I assisted the Supreme Physical Fitness Female Board with choreography of the junior girls’ and senior women’s drills for the 2021 International Slet. I reported on the status of the Sunshine Fund and transferred all records to Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Janice Matlon. I participated in the Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meeting in preparation for the Virtual Clinic.

**April - June 2020** I submitted an article to The Falcon pertaining to understanding generational differences. I participated in monthly Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meetings as well as two Female Board Zoom Meetings in preparation for a Virtual Clinic. I assisted Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift in conducting Part I of the Virtual Clinic.

**July - September 2020** I participated in a Female Board Zoom Meeting to reflect on ways to keep communication and connections with our members. I promoted Sokol International Golf Week on Facebook and attended a golf outing with members of Groups 5, 17 and 14 at Seven Oaks Country Club.

**October - December 2020** I participated in monthly Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meetings to discuss concerns and restrictions regarding the 2021 International Slet. I assisted Katie Swift in hosting Happy Hour Zoom Meetings by issuing prizes to monthly theme winners. I contacted SNPJ to discuss a possibility of holding a family outing should the Slet be postponed in 2021. I toured SNPJ with Supreme Assistant Sports Director, Frank Laury and collaborated with SNPJ Recreation Director to develop a draft itinerary.

Looking back on the past year positively, 2020 reaffirmed the core values of the Slovak Catholic Sokol- faith, family, good health, and happiness. I am thankful for being able to serve the organization as the Supreme Assistant Physical Directress. It is truly an honor to be involved in this capacity and I look forward to the continued growth of the Physical Fitness Program.

Zdar Boh!  
*Nancy Kropolinsky*  
Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

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**DIFFERENT TASKS REQUIRE DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS**

We’ve all done it at one time or another. On purpose or subconsciously, it’s probably something that we do hundreds of times a day. If you’re guessing at what I’m referring to it’s the procrastination bug. I didn’t realize it myself, but I just did it there. Got up and waled away from the computer screen to check on the mail, which was already delivered. I knew it but did I do anything to get away from the fact that this article is due tomorrow, and I really haven’t gotten anywhere close to starting, let alone finishing it.

I can’t understand just how those bloggers, reporters and posters do it. Almost everyday its something new to get done. I have enough trouble doing my taxes even with the deadline extension we’ve gotten the past two years. And don’t get me started on all those people that did so many home improvement projects during the pandemic. If I see one more closet cleaned out, rug ripped up or room repainted, I might pull out what’s left of my hair.

Don’t get me wrong. I really and truly admire these people. You know at least one of them. They always have something to do, something to post on their Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Meanwhile, plenty of us are struggling to find the motivation or self-discipline to just get moving on one thing a day.

To paraphrase Robert Burns, “the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray”. The reason I use this quote is to put into context the reasons many of us DO procrastinate. Something always comes up. I’ll get to it tomorrow. I’ve got plenty of time to get it done. Right now, I’m looking at a pile of laundry in my room that really needs to go in the wash so I have clean clothes for work tomorrow. I know it will get done but it may take a while to get around to them. And if you’ve been following along throughout this article, you know that I just walked away from the computer (again) to sort and start that first load. Procrastination solved or just another project delayed?

I’m not writing to poke fun at anyone, whether you’re the ‘go-getter’ or the ‘take it as it goes’ type. I find that I often fall into the latter of the two. But I am trying to find a middle ground between both. Different tasks require different solutions. If you’re anything like me, then you definitely understand and know what I mean. If it takes a visual reminder, then go ahead and tape that project above your desk so every time you log on to your computer you see it. Tie that string around your finger or wrist for a prompt. And everyone has some kind of reminder on their smart phone they can program.

I can probably go on and on about reasons, excuses and solutions for my bad habit, but right now I’ve got another load of laundry to do, clothes to put in the dryer and this article to finish. And if you’ve been following along through this you know that I did it there. Got up and waled away from the computer screen to check on the mail, which was already delivered. I knew it but I did it anyway to get away from the fact that this article is due tomorrow, and I really haven’t gotten anywhere close to starting, let alone finishing it.

PS I hope everyone had a little laugh while reading this. I had quite a few myself.

---

**Message from our Supreme President**

(Continued from page 2)

rus. Let us celebrate their lives and pray for them. May their souls Rest In Peace.

The Drive to 50 campaign has been extended to coincide with the 50th International Slet in July 2022. This will give everyone a chance to participate and help the Society increase its membership. If anyone has any questions regarding the Drive to 50 campaign contact our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. or Director of Sales Albert J. Suss, Jr.  

While we start thinking of summer stay safe and healthy.

With God’s Blessings to All!

Zdar Boh!

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**S.K.S. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Following up on the success of the 2020 Committee that was assembled for the 33rd Quadrennial Convention held August 4, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio, I call on all Slovak Catholic Sokol members who would like to serve on the Governance Committee at the 34th Convention to be held in 2023 to send to me their Letter of Interest.

The Governance Committee responsibilities will be to analyze the Society, see how it compares to other fraternals in structure, and recommend any changes, if necessary, to the Delegates of the 34th Quadrennial Convention.

In your letter of interest, list your employment, Slovak Catholic Sokol biography and a statement on why you want to serve on the Governance Committee.

All Letters of Interest must be addressed to the President and received at the Home Office by July 31, 2021.

All questions regarding the Governance Committee should be sent to me at mhorvath@slovakcatholicsokol.org.

Zdar Boh! – *Michael J. Horvath, President*
CELEBRATING THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be reaching a significant milestone within the SOKOL World – We will be hosting and presenting our 50th International Slet (Gymnastic and Track and Field Meet).

To help celebrate this Golden Occasion we have created the DRIVE TO 50 Sales CAMPAIGN. This campaign is designed to benefit and reward our membership, our groups, and recommenders.

BENEFITING MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

For more than 115 years our society has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. As proud members of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. This is an excellent opportunity to share our excellent offerings with friends and family and get rewarded for it.

Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

A supply of SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards will be available to all Group/Assembly/Wreath Officers for distribution. Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member. SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards are also available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site www.scslife.org. Mail all completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office:

Slovak Catholic SOKOL
Sales & Marketing
2403 Sidney Street, Suite 200,
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-381-5431
Fax: 412-742-4638
Toll-Free: 1-855-874-9179
www.scslife.org

DRIVE TO 50 DETAILS

RECOMMENDER REWARDS

- $10 Referral Fee for each recommendation that results in a sale.
- Qualifies for a semi-annual drawing for an opportunity to win a $50 gift card.
- Qualify for a $250 grand prize drawing at the end of the campaign.

GROUP REWARDS

Awards to qualifying Groups based on the following levels resulting from sales of new life insurance and annuity certificates issued:

- 10 New Certificates (policies): $250 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 25 New Certificates (policies): $500 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 50 New Certificates (policies): $1,000 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN - Member Referral Card

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Phone: ___ - ___ - ___ Email: ________________________________

Gender:  □ Male  □ Female  Age: _____  Date of Birth: ____/____/_______

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION

Assembly/Wreath: ___ Email: ________________________________

Name: ________________________________ Phone: ___ - ___ - ___

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

LEGACY LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

PERMANENT PLANS

WHOLE LIFE  •  SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE  •  20 PAYMENT LIFE

TERM PLANS

TERM to AGE 30  •  10 YEAR TERM  •  20 YEAR TERM

VANTAGE COLLECTION of ANNUITY PRODUCTS

1 YEAR  •  2 YEAR  •  3 YEAR  •  5 YEAR  •  7 YEAR

2.00%  2.25%  2.40% - 2.50% - 2.60%  3.00%  3.25%

• SPIA Single Premium Immediate Annuity

3.50% - 10 Years % Greater  •  2.75% Less than 10 Years
Respectfully submitted,

James F. Knis
Museum Board Secretary/ Treasurer
President Horvath asked the Supreme Secretary to present any Communications or greetings that were received at the Home Office.

Brother Pogorelec indicated thank well wishes for a successful meeting were received from Group 7 President, Amy Degnan Blasco, on behalf of all Group 7 members.

Sr. Brother Secretary also received a letter from our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., asking to be excused from the 1st Quarter Meeting for personal reasons. Acknowledged

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., to present the 2020 Annual Financial Report of the Supreme Secretary.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY**

**AS OF 12/31/20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$4,489,185</td>
<td>$1,738,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments - Bonds &amp; Bills</td>
<td>78,623,914</td>
<td>73,164,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - Stocks</td>
<td>12,409,697</td>
<td>10,955,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Mortgage Loans</td>
<td>593,670</td>
<td>606,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans on Certificates</td>
<td>247,218</td>
<td>241,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Interest Receivable</td>
<td>803,105</td>
<td>829,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sokol Building/Land</td>
<td>321,402</td>
<td>325,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>35,835</td>
<td>25,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due From Groups</td>
<td>2,808</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Items</td>
<td>15,168</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$97,542,002</td>
<td>$87,885,260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Reserves</td>
<td>$78,226,584</td>
<td>$68,441,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Valuation Reserve</td>
<td>1,977,033</td>
<td>1,660,232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Maintenance Reserve</td>
<td>266,972</td>
<td>196,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve for Supplemental Contracts</td>
<td>2,849,615</td>
<td>2,643,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan</td>
<td>4,821,045</td>
<td>4,826,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve for Convention</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claims Payable</td>
<td>490,290</td>
<td>534,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conversion - Canadian Currency</td>
<td>3,847</td>
<td>3,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>36,208</td>
<td>76,983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sokol Secure Fund</td>
<td>1,093,375</td>
<td>1,096,024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr's Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yencha Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>20,700</td>
<td>18,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend Payable</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Premiums</td>
<td>45,656</td>
<td>89,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP Loan</td>
<td>40,752</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>$90,211,077</td>
<td>$79,868,237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Undistributed Funds - Sokol | $7,330,925 | $8,017,023 |

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS** | $97,542,002 | $87,885,260 |

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**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$3,221,072</td>
<td>$3,235,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of IMR</td>
<td>39,428</td>
<td>52,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends on Stocks</td>
<td>323,344</td>
<td>304,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Mortgages</td>
<td>7,710</td>
<td>38,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Certificate Loans</td>
<td>17,635</td>
<td>19,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Cookbooks</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Received - Sokol Building</td>
<td>75,025</td>
<td>106,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Premium Income</td>
<td>2,314,886</td>
<td>2,591,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity Income</td>
<td>11,392,077</td>
<td>1,938,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>168,138</td>
<td>46,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Securities/Amortization</td>
<td>148,758</td>
<td>982,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$17,708,538</td>
<td>$9,317,979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death Benefit Claims Paid</td>
<td>1,661,785</td>
<td>1,358,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Expense</td>
<td>78,167</td>
<td>164,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternal Expenses</td>
<td>458,674</td>
<td>574,641</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Expenses</td>
<td>1,291,112</td>
<td>1,444,376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Retirement Expenses</td>
<td>359,371</td>
<td>362,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>475,974</td>
<td>398,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuity Benefits</td>
<td>3,614,974</td>
<td>3,334,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes &amp; Fees</td>
<td>53,125</td>
<td>61,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Increase</td>
<td>9,778,280</td>
<td>1,217,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Surrenders</td>
<td>387,216</td>
<td>311,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$18,158,678</td>
<td>$9,227,571</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)** | $-450,140 | $90,408 |

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Several questions were presented and addressed in a general discussion. A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Approved

President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary and asked if he could present the Director of Sales Report.

Brother Secretary reported that as of December 31, 2020, a total of 472 new members have joined our organization through the purchase of life insurance and annuity certificates. The total face amount of insurance issued for 2020 was just under 9 million. The total number of certificates in force is 30,604, consisting of 29,725 life certificates and 879 annuity certificates.

The total amount of life premium dollars remained strong in 2020. We have built a solid base of renewal premium the last five years primarily through the Legacy Life and Legacy 20.

This past year was a banner year for annuity premium income as we saw exponential growth in premium dollars. Annuity income exceeded 10 million for the first time in our Society's history.

Also discussed was the new 2017 CSO Tables, which have
to present the Market Director/Senior Vice-President, and Ms. Cynthia Cole, answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

A discussion ensued regarding the operational results and investment yields are being dragged down further.

Annuity premium income increased dramatically in 2020. The Quality of the Sokol’s bond portfolio remained at a very high level in 2020. The average NAIC bond quality designation, weighted by amortized value, is 1.65(where “1.0” is “highest quality” and “2.0” is “high quality”). The Sokol has also lengthened the maturity dates of its bond portfolio. The average duration has increased to about 14.1 years.

Brother Ferrone reported on the operational results in 2020. The amount of money the Sokol collects from investment income and premiums is less than the money being paid out for benefits, insurance/fraternal expenses, dividends, and the amount needed to fund the required increases in reserves. The 2020 expenses were lower than the 2019 expenses, which can be attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic, but the Home Office is still doing a good job of controlling what they can control. The Home Office will continue to find ways to lower expenses.

Annuity premium income increased dramatically in 2020. The Sokol will need to keep a keen eye on that type of income as the investment yields are being dragged down further.

A discussion ensued regarding the operational results and areas where the Sokol can improve their efforts. Mr. Ferrone answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

President Horvath then called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, Market Director/Senior Vice-President, and Ms. Cynthia Cole, Fixed Income Specialist, of PNC Institutional Asset Management to present the PNC Advisor’s Report.

Mr. Calimano discussed PNC’s outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, he reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios and future potential strategic changes in the portfolio. The individually invested bond portfolio for the twelve months ended December 31, 2020 continues to be of high quality with a solid investment grade rating average.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole also discussed future potential portfolio repositioning and PNC’s outlook for the financial markets during these difficult times.

Brother Calimano and Sister Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook. Both indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment.

A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Approved

President Horvath then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. to present the Legal Department Report.

General Counsel updated the Board on the mortgages currently on file and the closures they have had to sustain due to Covid-19 restrictions. Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, made a motion that the General Counsel and Supreme Secretary work with the two existing mortgages to restructure their current mortgages to resume payment by July 2021, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

Brother Counsel also shared with the Board one new mortgage application. The Board mutually decided to issue a moratorium on the granting of any mortgage applications until circumstances in the economy change. Acknowledged

Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. Approved

Brother President thanked Brother Counsel and called upon Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, to present the 2021 Budget Report.

The Supreme Treasurer indicated that the Budget Committee, consisting of himself, the Supreme President, the Supreme Secretary, and the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors met virtually on Thursday, March 11th to go over the proposed budget.

Brother Knis addressed several questions to the satisfaction of the Board. A motion to accept the report was made by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Approved

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the Physical Fitness Committee Report.

Brother Matlon reported that the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Annual Meeting was held virtually on Saturday, January 16, 2021. The main topic discussed was the 50th International Slet that will now be held July 13th-17th, 2022 in Kutztown, PA.

Brother Underation and Sister Switf also updated the Board on the Sokol Family Fest to be held July 15th-18th, 2021 at SNPJ Recreational Center in Enon Valley, PA.

Looking ahead, the 2021 International Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake in Dubois, PA on August 6th-8th. Brother Matlon will keep all members informed on any new developments. Acknowledged

After a lively discussion regarding all items, Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, moved for the acceptance of the report, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis. Approved

The Supreme President then opened the floor for discussion regarding the Annuity Interest Rate to be offered for the Second Quarter of 2021.

After a lengthy discussion considering the reports from our professionals and the current financial climate, Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation, made a motion to adjust our credit-
HOLE SPONSORSHIP AT OUR 2021 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hole Sponsorship Opportunity
Sign Dimensions 24" X 18"
Cost $50.00

It is a great fraternal way to promote your Group, Assembly/Wreath, business, or family to over 120 golfers the weekend of August 6th through the 8th, 2021.

The Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Send the information that you want printed on your sign via email or regular mail.

Please send a check for $50.00 made payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account
Deadline: July 9, 2021
Email: jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org
Mailing Address:
James Matlon, 6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981

Well-known Group 14 Sokolka, Jen Flynn Oldenburg is shown above as the Ohio State Women’s Head volleyball coach. She is the daughter of Phyllis and Al Flynn and sister of Laurie Flynn Cortazzo, all our Sokols. She was hired in this position in January 2020 and has enjoyed great success. She has now been named Big Ten Coach of the Year heading to the 2021 NCAA Volleyball Tournament with a 15-3 winning record, ranked 8th in the country and seeded 9th in the NCAA Volleyball Tournament held in April in Omaha Neb. This has never been accomplished by either a man or woman as a first year head coach at Ohio State. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Jen at this time. Happy future and Zdar Boh!
The longer days and warmer weather brings us closer to the golf season and to our Slovak Catholic Sokol 66th International Golf Tournament which will be held August 6th-8th at Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

We are looking forward to hosting a wonderful weekend of fraternalism and sportsmanship. The participants and guests for the 66th International Golf Tournament will stay at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn or at Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Over the years, this event has become much more than a golf outing, but has evolved into a true fraternal family event. Many of our Sokol members now attend the tournament accompanied with their respective families, which has added to the richness of the event and true fraternal camaraderie.

We are hoping to have a large turnout of golfers and guests this year, especially after the cancellation of the 2020 Golf Tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please return your application and fee as soon as possible to my home address: 6 Academy Drive East, Whippany, NJ 07981. If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call or text me at (973) 647-8551. Email jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org, Application and fee deadline for the tournament is July 9th (postmarked).

The full golf package is only $295.00 double occupancy and $415.00 single occupancy. The golf package includes the tournament entry fee and prize money, three full rounds of golf with cart, two nights lodging, including breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, The golf package also includes the Friday night hospitality and a Saturday dinner. (All taxes and gratuities are included).

For our members who may not require the lodging and meal package, there is a golf only package for $160.00, which includes entry fee and tournament expense fees. The non-golf weekend package rate is $140 which includes lodging and breakfast if you check-in at Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 9th, 2021. Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 9th, 2021. All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form.

2. (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:

- “A” Flight 0 to 12 Handicap
- “B” Flight 13 to 20 Handicap
- “C” Flight 21 and over
- “D” Flight Callaway System
- “S” Flight Senior
- “W” Flight Women

(B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40  Women - 50

(C) Only the Slovak Catholic Sokol Handicap or GCU Handicap will be accepted for all flights.

3. The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.

4. Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Slovak Catholic Sokol/GCU Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.

5. (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by “Handicap Committee”. In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.

(B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.

6. All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 7th and 18 on Sunday, August 8th.

7. Entry Fee is $15.00 and Tournament Expense is $15.00. A golf dinner will be available on Saturday after completion of the first round of tournament play.

8. Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.

9. Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application.

10. Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.

11. All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form.

12. Make checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account

13. Mailing address: James Matlon
6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981-1801
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
66TH INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM
AUGUST 6TH - 8TH 2021 – TREASURE LAKE GOLF RESORT – DUBOIS, PA
GOLF PRACTICE RESERVATIONS: GOLD COURSE - (814) 913-1482 & SILVER COURSE (814) 913-1480

U.S.G.A. 36 Holes Men-5 Flights - Women-1 Flight
ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 9th 2021

Every golfer must fill out a form and all fees must accompany this entry form.

Name:___________________________________________               Phone: (           ) ________________________
Address:__________________________________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
Email:____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Certificate#:___________________ Assembly / Wreath__________ Golfer Signature_______________________________

I hereby certify that the name on this application is a bona-fide member of this Assembly/Wreath in good standing.

______________________________________________________________
Assembly/Wreath President or Secretary

_____ I have participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments
_____ I have not participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments
_____ Men: I am 62 years or older and wish to enter the Senior Flight and have participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments.

Tournament Start Times:   8:00 AM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday

Preferred Doubles Partner: ___________________________________________________________________________________

____  Full Golf Package
Double Occupancy
Package Fee: $ 265.00      $ 385.00
Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: $ 30.00      $ 30.00
TOTAL DUE: $ 295.00      $ 415.00

____  Full Golf Package
Single Occupancy
Package Fee: $ 385.00      $ 385.00
Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: $ 30.00      $ 30.00
TOTAL DUE: $ 415.00      $ 415.00

____  Golf Only Package
Package Fee: $130.00
Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: $ 30.00
TOTAL DUE: $ 160.00

____  Non-Golf Package
Double Occupancy $ 140.00      $ 140.00

____  Non-Golf Package
Single Occupancy $ 265.00      $ 265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA 814-375-1000
The Birth of Mother’s Day

A woman named Anna Jarvis started a campaign for an official holiday honoring mothers in 1905, the year her own mother died. The first larger-scale celebration of the holiday was in 1908, when Jarvis held a public memorial for her mother in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia.

Mother’s Day is an occasion which is celebrated in various parts of the world to express respect, honor, and love towards mothers. ... It is a day which makes people remember the importance and significance of mothers in their life and is observed as a day to give special emphasis to the motherly figures around the world.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois.
Happy Mother's Day!

Help the children get their gifts to Mom!
KIDS’ CORNER “Detský kútik” – - May 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!!
Benjamin Roman 5/3
Xaviar Yuhas 5/13
Octavia Dixon 5/20
Nathan DiMartino 5/20
Lucia Yuhas 5/21
Savannah Vollero 5/22
Vayda Korenoski 5/28

SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY DATES TO ME
vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

Never Forget Their Service

Happy Memorial Day!

Arlington
Civil War
graves
Memorial Day

Armed Forces
decorate
patriotic

cemeteries
flags
Last Monday
remember

©2023 Katie Bornick
WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

(Continued from page 2)

proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.
For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.
Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it.

Why?
Not because it’s a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.
No, do it because Mary is Mother — your mother, my mother, everyone’s mother — and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.
For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to Memorial Scholarship Fund? Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorial-fundframe.htm or send your donation to: James F. Knis, SCS Museum Treasurer, 6385 Harbor Drive, N.W., Canton, OH 44718.
RULE OF LAW: PRINCIPLES

Another way of understanding the rule of law is to examine the concept, values, and principles that support and are supported by it. For example, separation of powers and the resultant checks and balances assure that one person or group of people in the government does not amass ultimate power. That system is a fundamental component to American democracy’s reliance on the rule of law and “not of men.” Judicial independence and accountability are instrumental to separation of powers and the rule of law it protects. An independent, accountable judiciary guarantees that justice will be executed according to the law and not individual’s feelings or biases. In America, the framers ensured that the Constitution could be changed with two-thirds vote of the legislative branch and three-fourths of the states—not at the whim of any single individual. Transparency and public accessibility of laws and the legal process—with a free press as a watchdog—assure we maintain a “government of laws and not of men.”

ANALYSIS

The centrality of the rule of law in successful societies is experienced, if not acknowledged, in American life every day. Examples of daily practices taken for granted but protected by the rule of law include the free exercise of individual rights—expressing opinions that are unpopular, practicing religions that are not widely understood, and participating in public life at school, in court and in the voting booth.

CONCLUSION

This year’s Law Day theme encourages us all to examine the rule of law, our role in its sustainability, and its role in protecting our communities, our democracy, opportunity, equality, and all that is most precious to us. Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits. We all have a stake in the rule of law, and we can all do our part to strengthen it. I encourage you to join with me in working to advance the understanding of the rule of law during this year’s Law Day celebration.

ZDAR BOH!
Respectfully submitted,
John D. Pogorelec, Jr., General Counsel

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 43rd year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of April 20, there are 152 donors who have given $16,384.50 to the 2021 Appeal. Donations have been received from Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 24, Assembly 34, Assembly 48, Assembly 71, Assembly 78, Assembly 162, Assembly 180, Group 6, Group 12, Wreath 11, Wreath 15, Wreath 81. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2021 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

Name _____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
City _______________________________________________
State ______________________      Zip __________________
Amount $____________

Learn more: Visit the SACC website for scholarship information and information on the two programs offered this summer: SLI (University of Pittsburgh) and the SAS (Studia Academica Slovaca)!
NEMECKO DAROVALO SLOVENSKU 31 PLÚCNÝCH VENTILÁTOROV

Nemecko darovalo Slovensku na pomoc v boji s pandémiou nového koronavírusu 31 plúcných ventilátorov v hodnote zhruba 150 000 eur. Boli odovzdané na využitie do Ústrednej vojenskej nemocnici v Ružomberku.

Plúcné ventilácie spolu s príslušenstvom budú slúžiť pacientom s ťažkým priebehom ochorenia COVID-19.

Z celkového počtu 31 ventilátorov je 25 ventilátorov darom od Ministerstva obrany Spolkovej republiky Nemecko a šesť ventilátorov od Ministerstva zdravotníctva Spolkovej republiky Nemecko.

Obom nemeckým ministerstvám podkoval minister obrany SR Jaroslav Naď.

Tento prejav solidarity je podľa jeho slov dôkazom dlhodobojnej partnerstva v rámci EÚ a NATO.

Recepty na domáce... - pravda.sk

- pravda.sk

... imidž ako z pláže. - pravda.sk

Recepty na domáce cupcakes. - sme.sk

Tento stylingový trik si zamilujete... emma.sk

Únia leje milióny do slovenských startupov. - sme.sk

Náterky, dip aj polievka. - sme.sk

Vyškúšajte newsletter denníka SME. - sme.sk

PRIEMERNÁ MZDA V SR MEDZIROČNE STÚPLA VO VÁČSINE ODDEVYTÍ

Priemerná nominálna mesačná mzda na Slovensku vo februári tohto roka medziročne vzrástla vo váčsine sledovaných odvetví. Najväčší nárast zaznamenalo stavebníctvo, kde sa priemerná mzda v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím v predchádzajúcom roku vyvíjať v ďalších mesiacoch. Celkové počty zomretých v porovnaní s predchádzajúcimi rokmi sú základnými vstupmi na analýzy o vplyve COVID-19 na spoločnosť.

Tuácia v kategórii mladších seniorov vo veku 65 až 74 rokov. Najväčší nárast zaznamenalo stavebníctvo, kde priemerná mzda medziročne vyšla o 15 percent. Najnižší rast počtu zomretých sa opäť ukázal v januári Žilinského kraja, kde počet zomretých okolo hranice 50 percent.


Our Ever-Popular, 304-Page Sokol Cook Book is Now in its Fourth Edition
Just $15.50 which includes postage and handling Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths can order a case of 12 cook books for just $170.00
Place your order today!
Make check or money order payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol
P.O. Box 899 – 205 Madison Street
Passaic, N.J. 07055
(Canadian orders kindly add an additional $15.00 for postage)

NAME______________________________________
ADDRESS______________________________________
CITY, STATE & ZIP_________________ _______________
NUMBER OF BOOKS________________________________

(Effective January 1, 2015)